Please amend the claims as follows: --

--1. (Previously Amended) A method of reducing the number of the number of attributes and respective values of a sample population employed in generating a predictive model, said method comprising the steps of:

obtaining one or more desired attributes and respective values;

comparing said one or more desired attributes and respective values with said sample population to obtain a target population;

determining a statistical measure of difference between each of the attributes and respective values of said target population and the attributes and respective values of the sample population; and

utilizing said statistical measure of difference to reduce the number of attributes and respective values of said sample population.--

--2. (Cancelled)

--3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining a statistical measure of difference further comprises:

determining an entropy for the attribute values.--

--4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of utilizing said statistical measure to reduce the number of attributes and respective values of said population further comprises:

identifying n attributes having a largest difference in respective values with said target population.--

--5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of utilizing said statistical measure to reduce the number of attributes and respective values of said population further comprises:

identifying a predetermined percentage of attributes and respective values having a larger statistical measure of difference than remaining attributes and respective values.--

--6. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of utilizing said statistical measure to reduce the number of attributes and respective values of said population further comprises:

identifying attributes and respective values where said statistical measure of difference exceeds a predetermined amount.--

--7. (Cancelled)

--8. (Cancelled)

--9. (Cancelled)

--10. (Cancelled)

--11. (Cancelled)

--12. (Cancelled)

--13. (Previously Amended) A method of selecting attributes for computing a model, comprising:

for a plurality of samples each having values for a plurality of attributes:

for each of the plurality of attributes:

comparing the attribute values for a target group of samples to the attribute values for all of the plurality of samples; and

determining a difference between the attribute values for the target groups and the attribute values for all of the plurality of samples; and

identifying attributes within the plurality of attributes having a largest difference between the attribute values for the target groups and the attribute values for all of the plurality of samples; and

selecting at least some of the identified attributes.--

--14. (Previously Amended) A system for selecting attributes for computing a model, comprising:

a memory containing data for a plurality of samples each having values for a plurality of attributes; and

a processor coupled to the memory and executing a selection process including:

comparing attribute values for samples having a desired attribute value to attribute values for all samples;

selecting a subset of available attributes based on a difference between attribute values for the samples having the desired attribute value and attribute values for all of the samples; and

employing the selected subset of attributes to generate a predictive model.--

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the selection process determines a statistical measure of difference between the attribute values for samples having the desired attribute and the attribute values for all of the samples.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the selection process determines an entropy for the attribute values.

17. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the selection process identifies a predetermined number of attributes having a largest difference in the attribute values for selection.

18. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the selection process identifies a predetermined percentage of attributes having a larger difference in the attribute values for selection.

19. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the selection process identifies, for selection, attributes having a difference in the attribute values exceeding a predetermined amount.

--20. (Previously Amended) A system for computing a model, comprising:

a memory containing data for a plurality of samples each having values for a plurality of attributes; and

a processor coupled to the memory and executing a selection process including:

comparing attribute values for a target subset of the plurality of samples to attribute values for all of the samples;

selecting attributes having a largest difference between attribute values for the target subset and attribute values for all of the samples; and

computing a model employing the selected attributes.--

--21. (Previously Amended) A computer usable medium for selecting attributes for computing a model, said computer usable medium comprising:

computer program code for reading values of attributes for a plurality of samples;

computer program code for comparing attribute values for samples having a desired attribute value to attribute values for all samples; and

computer program code for selecting a subset of available attributes based on a difference between attribute values for samples having the desired attribute value and attribute values for all samples.--

--22. (Currently Amended) The computer usable medium of claim 21, wherein the ~~instructions~~ computer program code for comparing attribute values for samples having a desired attribute value to attribute values for all samples further comprise:

computer program code for determining a statistical measure of difference between the attribute values for samples having the desired attribute value and the attribute values for all samples.--

--23. (Currently Amended) The computer usable medium of claim 22, wherein the ~~instructions~~ computer program code for determining a statistical measure of difference between the attribute values for samples having the desired attribute value and the attribute values for all samples further comprise:

computer program code for determining an entropy of the attribute values for samples having the desired attribute value and an entropy of the attribute values for all samples;

computer program code for comparing the entropy of the attribute values for samples having the desired attribute value to the entropy of the attribute values for all samples for each attribute to determine a relative measure of difference; and

computer program code for comparing the relative measure of difference of all attributes.--

--24. (Currently Amended) The computer usable medium of claim 21, wherein the ~~instructions~~ computer program code for selecting a subset of available attributes based on a difference between attribute values for samples having the desired attribute value and attribute values for all samples further comprise:

computer program code for identifying n attributes having a largest difference in the attribute values.--

--25. (Previously Amended) A computer usable medium for selecting attributes for computing a

model, said computer usable medium comprising:

computer program code for comparing attribute values for a target group of samples to

attribute values for all samples for each of a plurality of attributes;

computer program code for determining a difference between the attribute values for the

target group of samples and the attribute values for all of the samples; and

computer program code for selecting a group of attributes having a largest difference

between the attribute values for the target group of samples and the attribute values for all

samples.--